

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. An apparatus for directional guidance of a vascular device, comprising:  
a generally linear insertion device having a medially positioned bend, the insertion device biased to the bend by structural memory of the plastic, the insertion device terminating at a distal end; and  
an axially oriented channel formed in the insertion device so as to intersect the distal end,  
10 the channel being open to an outer surface of the insertion device and configured by a channel width of at least 0.1 inches, a channel depth of at least 0.07 inches, and a channel length of at least 1.5 inches, so as to slidably receive the vascular device and to guide the vascular device toward the distal end.
- 15 2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the insertion device comprises:  
an inner guiding catheter; and  
an outer deflecting catheter configured with a tubular wall defining an interior lumen such that the guiding catheter is positioned coaxially and slidably within the deflecting catheter along at least a portion of the lumen, the tubular wall having the channel formed  
20 therein so as to communicate with the lumen.
3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein:  
the deflecting catheter has a relatively long, substantially linear proximal portion and a relatively short, substantially linear distal portion, the deflecting catheter being further  
25 configured with the bend formed therein at an angle of up to about 85 angular degrees between the proximal and distal portions such that the distal portion is angled relative to the proximal portion so as to have a superior aspect; and  
the channel is formed in the superior aspect.